

By this amendment, Claims 24-34 are pending. Claims 1-23 are canceled. Claims 24 and 27 are amended for clarity. New Claims 31-34 are added and are supported by the Specification and claims as originally filed.

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending Claims 24-34 are in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require anything further, s/he is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 

Kathleen Neuner Manne
Registration No. 40,101

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: October 20, 2000